



April, 2009

# THE GREEN SCENE

## The Renaissance Pleasure Faire Returns To Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area

The 47<sup>th</sup> annual Renaissance Pleasure Faire returned to Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area with a gala opening held on Saturday April 4, 2009. In a true Shakespearean comedic flair, actors portraying Sir Francis Drake and other characters entertained the crowd in traditional Elizabethan fashion with farce and mayhem as they welcomed everyone, along with several guests of honor including: County of Los Angeles First District Supervisor, Gloria Molina; the Mayor of Irwindale, Larry Burrola; Mayor Pro-Tem, Manuel Ortiz; Irwindale City Council member, Mark Breceda; Department of Parks and Recreation Chief Deputy Director, John Wicker; Regional Facilities Deputy Director, Hayden Sohm; Regional Operations Manager, Dale Hall; Santa Fe Dam Park Superintendent, Chris Graham, and other department staff.

The Renaissance Pleasure Faire, which is owned by Renaissance Entertainment Productions, is a commercial re-enactment of a 1680 market faire at a water front town located in Elizabethan England, held every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. until May 17, 2009.

Throughout 20 acres of shady groves, over 2,000 costumed performers bring Shakespeare's England to life. Everyone can enjoy numerous parades, 13 stages of continuous entertainment spread around the village and over 150 craft artisans, games, hearty English ales, fine wines, as well as over 100 gourmet foods, making for a full day of revelry, shopping, and fun! Also, check out the new shows added for 2009!

The 876 acre facility of Santa Fe Dam is a unit of the United States Army Corp of Engineers and is maintained and operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. It includes a 70 acre fishing lake and 5 acres of chlorinated swim beach.



### CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	2
WELCOME 2ND DISTRICT DEPUTIES	2
PLAY FOR LIFE! PHASE II KICK OFF	3
DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS HONORED	4 - 5
LADERA PARK LITTLE LEAGUE GRAND OPENING	5
HIGH FIVE!	6

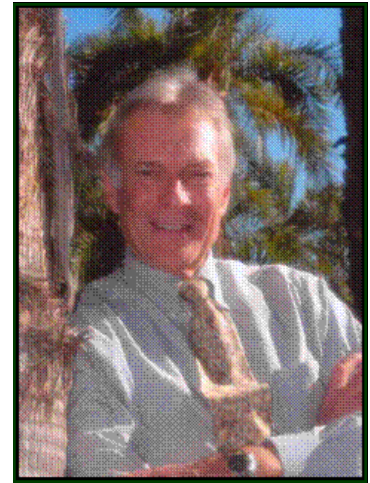




## Greetings from the Director

Recently we celebrated Healthy Parks Month and National Volunteer Week. Both of these are extremely important in recognizing the valuable work that employees and volunteers in the parks and recreation field contribute to the community. All of you are responsible for the maintenance of each facility and the continued success of the many wonderful programs available to the public. I want to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to our facilities and programs.

We also recently launched the second phase of our Department's Public Information Campaign *Play for Life!*. This new and exciting phase will continue to encourage all of us to be healthy, stay active, and play for life. People from our parks are serving as spokespeople for the campaign and helping to encourage residents to visit our many wonderful recreational facilities. Just as important are employees like you who help us spread the word and inform the public of the many parks and programs available to them. You will soon receive buttons and bookmarks highlighting every aspect of the campaign. Please join me in encouraging everyone to come to our parks and to *Play for Life!*



*Russ Guiney, Director*

## Welcome Senior Deputy Dan Rosenfeld and Deputy Karly Katona



County of Los Angeles 2nd Supervisorial District Deputies Karly Katona and Dan Rosenfeld.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and the South Community Services Agency would like to welcome Dan Rosenfeld, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' Senior Deputy for Economic Development, and Karly Katona, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' Deputy for Sustainability Second District.

Mr. Rosenfeld is responsible for land use, workforce development, housing, small and large-scale business development, sustainability, and mobility issues. Dan has alternated in his career between public and private-sector service, working previously as Director of Real Estate for the State of California and the City of Los Angeles.

In the private-sector, he served as a Senior Officer with The Cadillac Fairview Corporation, Tishman-Speyer Properties, Kilroy Industries and Jones Lang LaSalle. He was a founding

member of Urban Partners, LLC, a nationally recognized developer of urban infill, mixed-use and transit-oriented real estate. Dan is a graduate of Stanford University and the Harvard Business School.

Ms. Katona has the responsibility of managing the environmental issues that pertain to parks and recreation, libraries, public works, and planning. Prior to her current position, Karly worked as a Deputy for Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke after serving as a Coro Fellow in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and is currently completing a Masters in Public Health at the University of California Los Angeles.

We're excited to work with them both as we collaborate with the Second District Board office on new ideas, as well as continuing successful programs and events that enhances the community.



## Play for Life! Phase II Kick-Off



The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation has launched the exciting second phase of the Departmental Public Information Campaign *Play for Life!* which is sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission through a \$135,000 grant. The launch took place during a County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors meeting on March 10, 2009.

*Play for Life!* Phase II, will continue to promote and encourage youth, families, seniors, and everyone in between to be healthy, stay active, and play at the many County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation Facilities. This year's campaign features real people who use Los Angeles County recreational facilities and will help encourage other members of the community to do the same by taking part in the many fun and healthy activities and programs available to them through our 4 arboreta and botanic gardens, 337 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, 27 swimming pools, 14 lakes, 94 local and regional parks, 19 golf courses, 19 natural areas and wildlife sanctuaries, the Hollywood Bowl and the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre.

The new phase of *Play for Life!* will expand community outreach in collaboration with other County Departments by utilizing promotional materials throughout the County, including street light-pole pennants at one unincorporated area in each Supervisorial District; distributing bookmarks to libraries; and placing posters at parks, libraries, and healthcare facilities.

Please join us in encouraging everyone to come to our parks, to be healthy, stay active, and to *Play for Life!*

**Play for Life!**  
You should too!

## Department of Parks and Recreation's Volunteers Honored

The 27<sup>th</sup> Volunteer of the Year Recognition and Awards ceremony, was held on April 13, 2009. Fourteen Parks and Recreation volunteers were honored at this event with the theme "Volunteers are Sun-Sational!"



Left to Right—Top row: John Wicker, Kimberly Rhoads, Steven Weather, Gabriel Rios, Russ Guiney, Joe Mendoza  
Bottom Row: Megan Talbert-Brown, Jordan Nixon, Emilio "Randy" Garcia, Keith "Kalikoat" McComb, Tony Lateef, Maria Lopez

**Gabriel Rios** volunteers four hours a day, sometimes five days a week at Belvedere Park assisting with many youth programs. "Gabriel is a great mentor and example for the youth who participate in the park's programs", said Martin Rascon, Belvedere Park Supervisor. *Youth Volunteer, First Supervisorial District*

**Emilio "Randy" Garcia** is a 15-year-old dedicated park volunteer, donating more than 500 hours at El Cariso Community Regional Park. Randy is a counselor for music and drama productions, works with young campers, and assists staff with fitness games, and arts and crafts projects. *Youth Volunteer, Department of Parks and Recreation*

**Maria Lopez** is a co-founder and current president of the Associated Park Council at Basset Park. "Her enthusiasm is reflected in her productivity and effectiveness in getting others to volunteer", said one park supervisor. *Youth Volunteer, First Supervisorial District*

**Megan Talbert-Brown's** five years and 900 hours of volunteer service includes donating time at Pamela, Sunshine, Dalton and Valleydale parks. "Volunteering makes me feel like I'm helping people to have a different attitude towards youth and kids to have a different attitude towards teenagers. I love helping out", said Megan. *Youth Volunteer, Department of Parks and Recreation*

**Steven Weather** volunteers at Roosevelt Park and Walnut Nature Park. He assists with sports programs, clinics, and teen programs. He was part of a group that developed a community program in which teens volunteer at special events and collect cans and bottles for recycling. *Youth Volunteer, First Supervisorial District*

**Kimberly Rhoads** volunteers at the Castaic Sports Complex for the past 11 years. "I never felt totally complete until I started volunteering", said Kimberly, who also tutors youth in the community and plans. *Adult Volunteer, Department of Parks and Recreation*

**Jordan Dixon** is a dedicated volunteer at Victoria Park. "We are called not to be served but to serve others. Being a County volunteer means meeting the needs of others through service. It's a very fulfilling experience", said Jordan. *Adult Volunteer, Second Supervisorial District*

**Kevin Cundiff** has donated more than 500 volunteer hours to Rowland Heights Park. He goes beyond the norm in his volunteer service and is always available to lend a hand to staff with all special events. *Adult Volunteer, Fourth Supervisorial District*

**Jimmy Washington** 70 years young volunteer, successfully implemented "Movie Day Mondays" at Steinmetz Senior Center by a partnership with a local movie rental store that provides free movies. *Adult Volunteer, Fourth Supervisorial District*

**Keith "Kalikoat" McComb** with nearly 29,000 hours of volunteer service over a nine-year period at Athens Park, ranks among the County's longest serving volunteers. Keith gives generously of his time to all of the parks sports programs, from basketball to baseball to volleyball and swimming. *Adult Volunteer, Second Supervisorial District*

For the past four years **Tony Lateef** has donated nearly 400 volunteer hours to Jesse Owens Park. There are several gangs in the area around the park and he has reached out to them and helped to change the destiny of some gang members. As an adult, he wanted to give back to his community and mentor local youth. *Adult Volunteer, Second Supervisorial District*



## Department of Parks and Recreation's Volunteers Honored (Continued)



15-year-old **Alvaro Navarro** is a tremendous asset to the staff at Steinmetz Park in La Puente where he has donated more than 500 hours of volunteer service. He is a big help with the afterschool program, the Senior Center and the student store, which is a program that allows children to earn "money" and buy different items. *Youth Volunteer, Fourth Supervisorial District*

**Martin and Mathew Aban** are eighth grade students who volunteer at Carolyn Rosas Park and have donated 1980 volunteer hours. "Volunteering gives me a great satisfaction that I am giving something back to my community", said Matthew. "This gives me a feeling of accomplishment in doing good for others", said Martin. *Youth Volunteers, Fourth Supervisorial District*



**Volunteers  
are  
Sun-sational!**

***Congratulations to all of our  
Parks and Recreation  
volunteers!!***

## Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas throws out 1<sup>st</sup> ball at the Ladera Little League Baseball Opening



County of Los Angeles Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas throws the first ball commemorating the opening of the Ladera Park Little League Baseball.

On Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Second District Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas, threw out the first ball to open the Ladera Little League Baseball season at the Emmet L. Ashford fields, owned and operated by Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. All 24 teams, with children ages 5 to 15 years old, sporting various colorful uniforms, marched around the baseball diamond, proudly displaying their teams' banners, as the president of the Ladera Little League, Ms. Tracie Lymons, announced each team. After the team announcements, guest speakers: 2<sup>nd</sup> District, County of Los Angeles Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas; Department of Parks and Recreation Director, Russ Guiney; and Mr. Marty Hoy, District Administrator for Little League District 25, welcomed parents and friends to the event as they eagerly cheered on every team from the surrounding bleachers.

## HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

While at Bonelli Park, I noticed a gull tied to a buoy. It appeared to be caught in a long loop of fishing line and was struggling to get airborne. I found my way to the lifeguard station, expecting a not too enthusiastic response to my request for a rescue. I was happily surprised to see that they took the situation quite seriously and immediately sent a patrol boat to rescue the gull. Kudos for the lifeguards!

*Frank G. Bonelli Community Regional Park Visitor*

Thanks for your support of the 2nd Annual South Whittier Celebrate & Educate Festival at Adventure Park. As always, the Department of Parks and Recreation staff plays an invaluable role in making our events a huge success, and I truly appreciate your time and effort.

*Don Knabe  
Chairman*

*County of Los Angeles Supervisor, Fourth District*

The Special Districts Division received a certificate of appreciation from the County's Community Action Board for their response during the Santa Clarita Wildfires. The certificate reads: "In appreciation of your exemplary services and commitment to Los Angeles County, the Community Action Board salutes you on your tireless work done for the fire disaster victims throughout the County of Los Angeles".

Ilona Volkmann:

It was great to see you at the Dedication of the Don Knabe Nature Walking Trail. I want to thank you and your staff for working with the City of Paramount to make this happen. I know it was a tremendous effort for all involved, and the end result is truly amazing!

*Don Knabe  
Chairman*

*County of Los Angeles Supervisor, Fourth District*

Thank you for continuing the Los Angeles County Junior Golf Program. My granddaughter thoroughly enjoyed the program which she took at the Los Amigos Golf Course. She looked forward to her class each afternoon and really enjoyed it and she is learning the game. I must commend Mike McMonegal and his excellent coaching staff for an excellent job in training and mentoring our young children.

*Mrs. Diana McCormick  
Whittier, CA*

Mr. Andy Lopez responded to my e-mail regarding an issue with trail access at Vasquez Rocks. Mr. Lopez was incredibly patient, thorough and responsive. He is a really fine public "servant" and I am grateful for his help and yours.

*Resident  
Agua Dulce, CA*

## GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to [iperius@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:iperius@parks.lacounty.gov) and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



### County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

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Chairman  
Fourth District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
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**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

### Department of Parks and Recreation

**Russ Guiney**  
Director

**John Wicker**  
Chief Deputy Director

**Kaye Michelson**  
Special Assistant

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**Imee Gacad Perius**  
Editor

**Brenda Sanchez**  
Assistant Editor

**Contributors**  
**Joyce Fitzpatrick**  
**Catarah Hampshire**

433 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
(213) 738-2961

[iperius@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:iperius@parks.lacounty.gov)

<http://lacounty.info/>  
<http://parks.lacounty.gov>